

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/620,550
Amendment dated September 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A rail system according to claim 17, wherein, after mounting, the at least one resilient lip extends, on average, in a direction including an angle (γ) with a vertical plane in the range of approximately 10 - 45°.

4. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one resilient lip, after mounting, extends, on average, in a direction including an angle (γ) with a vertical plane in the range of approximately 15° - 30°.

5. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the resilient lip is manufactured from plastic.

6. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein a front end of the resilient lip of the second retaining element touches a slide-off surface of the first retaining element.

7. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 6, wherein said front lip end comprises a sliding surface which is substantially parallel to at least part of said slide-off surface of the first retaining element.

8. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 6, wherein said slide-off surface of the first retaining element after mounting, viewed in vertical cross section, includes an angle (α) with a vertical plane in the range of 45° - 70°.

9. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 8, wherein the angle (α) is in the range of 60° - 70°.

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10. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the first retaining element, after mounting, extends at least partly through a substantially vertical passage of the second retaining element.

11. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 10, wherein the first retaining element is provided with a widened head located, after mounting, above said passage, which head touches the front end of the resilient lip of the second retaining element.

12. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 6, wherein a widened head of the first retaining element is provided with said slide-off surface.

13. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 10, wherein the second retaining element comprises a plurality of resilient lips extending obliquely towards each other for forming a constriction of said passage of the second retaining element.

14. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the first and second retaining elements are each of rotation-symmetrical design relative to an axis of symmetry, which is vertical, at least after mounting.

15. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the second retaining element connected to the mounting surface is mounted in a tube or pendant having an inside diameter of less than 2 cm.

16. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 15, wherein said tube or pendant has a diameter in the range of 10 - 15 mm.

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17. (Currently Amended) A rail system, comprising:

a horizontally extending rail to be suspended from a mounting surface, wherein the rail is configured to suspend a curtain therefrom, the rail including a first groove, and a second groove configured to receive curtain runners;

at least one safety connection coupled to the rail, the safety connection comprising at least one first and one second retaining element, wherein after mounting, one of the retaining elements is coupled to the rail ~~to be suspended~~ in the first groove and the other of the retaining elements is connected to the mounting surface, the first and second retaining elements being detachably connected to each other such that, under influence of a tensile force applied to the retaining elements, the retaining elements disconnect, wherein the second retaining element integrally forms a resilient lip, and wherein the first and second retaining elements are configured to cooperate via the integrally formed resilient lip to effect said detachable coupling of the retaining elements.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the integrally formed resilient lip comprises a radially outward extending resilient lip.

21. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the second retaining element comprises a monolithic element defining the resilient lip.

22. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 20, wherein the second retaining element comprises a monolithic element defining the resilient lip.

23. (Previously presented) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the resilient lip extends longitudinally beyond the first retaining element and radially outward.

24-25. (Cancelled)

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26. (New) The rail system according to claim 17, wherein the retaining element coupled to the mounting surface is fixedly coupled to the mounting surface.